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RETAINING WALL BLOCK SYSTEM

This application is a continuation of Application No. 10/219,790, filed August 14, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,637,981 which is a divisional of 5 Application No. 09/652,566, filed August 31, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,447,213, which is a divisional of Application No. 09/248,435, filed February 11, 1999, now U.S. Patent No. 6,149,352, the contents of which are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

10 **Field of the Invention**

This invention relates generally to retaining wall blocks and retaining walls constructed from such blocks. In particular, this invention relates to a retaining wall block system that allows the construction of walls having a random natural appearance with varying block face sizes to create the 15 appearance of a natural stone wall.

Background of the Invention

Retaining walls are used in various landscaping projects and are available in a wide variety of styles. Numerous methods and materials exist for 20 the construction of retaining walls. Such methods include the use of natural stone, poured concrete, precast panels, masonry, and landscape timbers or railroad ties.

In recent years, segmental concrete retaining wall units, which are dry stacked (i.e., built without the use of mortar), have become widely accepted in 25 the construction of retaining walls. An example of such a unit is described in U.S. Patent No. Re 34,314, which issued to Forsberg (Forsberg '314). Such retaining wall units have gained popularity because they are mass produced and, consequently, relatively inexpensive. They are structurally sound, easy and relatively inexpensive to install, and couple the durability of concrete with 30 the attractiveness of various architectural finishes. The retaining wall system described in Forsberg '314 has been particularly successful because of its use of a block design that includes, among other design elements, a unique pinning